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ACCOUNTABILITY UNITY TRANSPARENCY EQUALITY

Sequestration means: Budget Cuts

Governor Lolo Matalasi Moliga told his directors at the previous cabinet meeting to scrutinize their department budgets and "pray over them" if they have to prevent overspending by the end of the fiscal year.

The sequestration and Washington's latest budget crisis are trickling down to American Samoa and the governor warned directors that if Congress does not agree on a stopgap measure by March 27, their departments will face an additional 5% budget reduction on top of the 10% budget cuts already in place. He says sequestration simply means "prepare to cut your budgets."

A stopgap spending bill must be approved by Congress by March 27 in order to keep the federal government in business. And Lolo said local departments with grants or are fully funded by grants have already been notified about cuts in their funding.

Lolo said except for trips to Manu'a, all government travel using local funds are being halted. He told his cabinet to scrutinize their budgets and make sure their spending is within their limits.

The governor also announced that ASG's first supplemental budget has been submitted to the Fono and it includes several appropriations to cover court judgments and overtime payments required by the US Department of Labor.

It also includes a \$250,000 appropriation to repair restroom facilities for Fagaitua High School. Lolo said he attended the Department of Education's Cultural Day and he thought Fagaitua High School was making a joke when they sang a song about how bad their school facilities are. "Shame on you for putting our children in those conditions..." the Governor said.

Governor Submits \$5 Million *Supplemental Budget* for Fono Review

The administration has submitted a \$5 million supplemental budget to the Fono for approval. The budget is to cover \$952,000 in legal settle-

ments or court judgments against ASG; \$916,000 in overtime payments to ASG employees; \$550,000 for Department of Education school facilities upgrades; half a million to the governor's office to cover unfunded payouts to former administration and staff; and half a mil-

lion to the Fono's FY 2013 budget that was cut by the Budget Office.

Other payments ranging from \$50,000 to half a million are for reimbursements of disallowable costs to the AmeriCorps and Vocational Rehabilitation federal programs; replenish small village fund, purchase a new tracking system for the Immigration Office, repair governor and Lt governor residences; pay for the governor's office contract services for consultancy projects; provide tools and equipment for Samoan affairs beautification program; and an amnesty program development and contract services.

Funding for the supplemental appropriations is to come from unbudgeted, unexpended and unobligated revenues for four separate sources. \$1.3 million is to come from Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement; \$1.7 million from "understatement of recoverable indirect costs" in the ASG original budget; \$1.5 million from the military cover over; and half a million from the National association of attorneys general class action settlement with Toyota Motor Corp.



Calendar of Events:

April Fools Day	Apr 1
ASNP Food Stamp Voucher	Apr 1
TAOA Food Voucher	Apr 1
GO Staff Meeting	Apr 1
Volume 1 Issue 9	Apr 8
Volume 1 Issue 10	Apr 15
Special Edition	Apr 17

What's New

Paperless System
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*Business License in
one day*
pg. 3

*NEW
People's Voice*
pg. 6

Territorial Administration on Aging

How to Register to Become a Senior Citizen

- Are you sixty or over?
- Were you born in American Samoa or USA?
- If you were born elsewhere, is your immigration I.D. Status AA, BA, or CA?
- If you are any of the above, then you qualify.
- Come to Pago Pago, TAOA Office, and see Fuatino Falelua, Joyce Felise, or Tafia Fiame Taimalelagi. Our telephone number is 633-1251.

Remember to bring all the following Documents:

- Passport or Birth Certificate
- Social Security Card
- LBJ Hospital Card
- 2 small passport photos for your senior citizen ID.
- Bring your immigration ID if you were born outside of American Samoa or USA.

For more information please contact us at 633-1251 or 770-1519 and ask for Mrs. Tafia Fiame Taimalelagi.

Treasury Gives Training on Paperless System

March 21, 2013—Treasury began training government employees this week on its paperless system intended to streamline government purchases.

The paperless system is aimed at making ASG's purchasing and the payment of vendors efficient and it saves departments' money and time spent physically following up on

ing phases include internal approval and external with digital transmission to Budget, Procurement and Treasury.

The workflow system will be activated on Monday, April 1, 2013. Departments currently linked to the IFAS system will have the ability to prepare, create and upload from their designated workstations. This includes offices within the EOB which were connected to the network earlier in the month.

For departments not yet connected to Treasury's network, walk up stations will be set up in the Office of Procurement and at the EOB for their use.

Governor Lolo Matalasi Moliga says if all the paperless system efforts can be accomplished, then the Administration will have taken a significant positive step towards establishing a conductive business environment.



The paperless purchasing system which is set to go live on April 1 allows departments to file and submit online purchase requests and monitor their status without having to physically make the rounds to different departments to process purchase orders.

Training sessions on the paperless system conducted by both Treasury and Procurement staff began on Monday and will end March 28. Training modules will enable the creator to upload all required documentation; forward-

purchase requisitions and orders.

na le malaga mo Manu'a, e le mafai ona toe malaga se tasi mo atunu'u mamao i tupe fasoasoa a Amerika Samoa.

Ua auina nei le tupe fa'asoasoa fa'aopoopo ile Fono Faitulafono mo lona pasia, aua i'uga mai i le Fa'amasinoga ma tagata faigaluega na galulue ovataimi I tausaga ua tuana'i. O lo'o iai fo'i i totonu o lenei paketi le \$250,000, e fa'atatau mo le fa'afouina o faleta'e (tulou) mo falea'oga a Fagaitua. "Ua tatau ona tatou mamā ile tulaga o lo'o iai nei falea'oga o fanau", o le saunoaga lea a le Kovana.

"FA'AGAFUA" – O lona uiga ua tipi lau PAKETI

"E tatau ona outou mata'ala i tupe fa'asoasoa a o outou ofisa ta'ito'atasi, tatalo ia lava ma 'ua nei silia lona fa'asoasoa ina, ia talafeagai ma lenei tausaga fa'ale-tupe", o le saunoaga lea a le Kovana Sili Lolo i le fonotaga a lana kapineta,

Ua amata ona fa'agafua nei le fa'asoasoa ina o tupe i Uosigitone, ua o'o ifo lava i Amerika Samoa. Afai e le pasia e le konekeresi le "stopgap measure" ua mautinoa le tipi o le paketi i le 5 pasene e o'o I le 10 pasene.

I le fa'aopoopo o le saunoaga a le Kovana Sili, vaga-

FA'AMASANI I KOMIPIUTA – FA'AMUTA PEPA FEAVEA'I

Ua mae'a a'o'oga a tagata faigaluega a le Malo o lo'o galulue mo tupe fa'asoasoa i totonu o ofisa ta'itasi mo le fa'aoagaina o komipiuta, ae fa'amuta le fa'aoagaina o pepa feavea'i. O le naunauga, ia taumafai e sa'ilii auala e faitiitia ai le so'ona fa'aalu o tupe a le Malo ile fa'atauina o ituaiga pepa 'ese'ese, aemaise fo'i le feoa'i o tagata faigaluega.

O le a amata ona fa'aoeina lenei galuega ia Aperila 1, 2013. O ofisa uma ua mae'a ona feso'ota'i ma le komipiuta a le Tupe Fa'asoasoa a le Malo, ua mafai ona galulue loa. O isi vaega e le o feso'ota'i, fesili ane i le ofisa o le Procurement e maua ai so outou fesoasoani.

Treasurer Explains Funding Sources for Supplemental

Treasurer Falema'o Dr. Phil Pili half a million dollars.

shed some light into funding sources being proposed to cover the administration's \$5 million supplemental budget during a House budget hearing this afternoon.

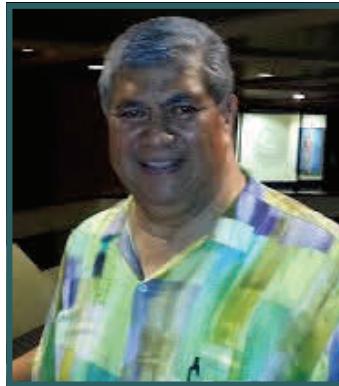
The supplemental budget is to cover 20 government projects ranging from employee overtime payments, court judgments, an immigration tracking system to Office of Samoan Affairs beautification projects, DOE school repairs, and reimbursements of disallowable costs for federal programs.

The funding sources are for the appropriations include the Tobacco Master and Toyota settlements, military cover over tax, and recoverable indirect costs in the ASG FY 2013 budget.

Under the Toyota settlement, American Samoa and 29 states share a \$29 million payout deal reached with car manufacturer, Toyota Motor Corp., last month. This settlement stems from the failure of Toyota to release information to consumers about defective components of Toyota vehicles including accelerator pedals. Falema'o said ASG is for sure to receive

Concerning the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement, Falema'o said \$1.3 million will be deposited by April 15 into an ASG account that was created for the purpose of receiving the tobacco monies. This funding was made known to the governor during his meeting in DC recently. The administration was told that all that's needed to access the funds is for ASG to provide an account to the company handling the disbursement of tobacco money then the funds will be channeled into the account.

The \$1.3 million is separate from the \$6.8 million that the previous administration included in the ASG budget last year, but was removed by the Fono on the premise that the fund wasn't for sure. Falema'o said the \$6.8 million is being assigned to the Department of Interior to pay down ASG's old debts. He said they've been told that it would take an act of Congress to reassign the \$6.8 million for American Samoa's use, and the governor is asking Congressman Faleomavaega for help to determine ASG's chances of getting back this money.



Concerning the military cover over tax, Falema'o said American Samoa is due monies from the Internal Revenue Service for previous years. ASG receives these taxes every year from military personnel whose home of record is American Samoa.

The treasurer expects at least \$1.5 million in military cover over taxes to come through in the next 30 to 45 days. Falema'o is also expecting to collect \$1.7 million in indirect costs for federal grants in the ASG FY 2013 budget. The government included in the current budget \$4.5 million in indirect costs and Falema'o said ASG expects to collect an additional \$1.7 million from this funding source.

Apply for a Business License Today and get it on the same day

Can you imagine getting a business license the same day you applied? The Department of Commerce (DOC) is ironing out details of a proposal that would see the issuance of provisional business licenses to applicants the same day they apply.

Director Keniseli Lafaele presented on the new business licensing policy during the last cabinet meeting. The new policy would shorten the turnaround time for business license application and approval to two weeks instead of

several months. Instead of the applicant walking their business license application for approval from various agencies and boards, DOC will perform that task.

Lafaele said DOC will refer the application to the relevant agencies for their approval, but if public hearings are required, the process will take a little bit longer. He also explained that business renewals seeking to utilize the same business location will be exempt from zoning review unless the business activity at that same location has

changed.

The DOC director said he submitted this proposal to Governor Lolo but the response from the governor is that the process is still not fast enough. He said while the two-week license processing period is the new policy, he was tasked to come up with something faster, where the applicant files their application, pay a fee and get a provisional business license the same day. Lafaele said the one-day licensing process will be a go after they iron out a few details.

Ofisa O Tagata Matutua

Ua e agava'a mo mea taumafa a tagata matutua?

- Ioe, pe 'a fai ua ono sefulu tausaga aga'i 'i luga o lou soifua.
- Ioe, pe 'a fai na e soifua mai i Amerika Samoa po 'o le malo 'o Amerika.
- Ioe, pe 'a iai sou pepa nofomau mai i le ofisa 'o le immigration ua iai le status: AA, BA, ma le CA.
- A fai 'ua e tali ioe i fesili uma ia e 'i luga, susu mai i le ofisa a tagata matutua i Pago Pago.

Manatua e taua'ao mai pepa taua nei:

- Tusi folau e le'i te'a le taimi e tatau 'ona fa'afou ai.
- Pepa fanau
- Pepa saogalemu
- Pepa numera 'o le falema'i
- 2 ata passport mo lou ID tagata matutua
- Pepa nofomau e iai AA, BA, po 'o le CA .

Mo ni fesili fia malama pe, fa'afeso'ota'i le ofisa a tagata matutua i le 633-1251 po 'o le 770-1519 ma fesili mo le tina o Tafia Fiame Taimalelagi. Ma le ava tele!

From ASG
Weekly to you
and your
families—Happy
Good Friday

"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.'"

John 11:25-26



Are ASG Employees Ready for an Emergency Evacuation? By: Monte Isaia-ASG Weekly Reporter

March 27, 2013—In collaboration with the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Homeland Security, the employees of the American Samoa Government all participated in an emergency evacuation drill, which took place in the Executive Office Building this

morning.

The drill is intended to prepare and educate ASG All participants were un-harmed and returned to regular business after the drill order to exit in an event had concluded. For more information please feel free Members of the community to contact The Department that were conducting busi- ness within the building at 633-2827.



Do We Really Know What Goes In Our Food?

By: Marietta Lafaele-ASG Weekly Editor

Our generation has taken to the cosmetic use of pesticides and I think, perhaps unwittingly, not fully understanding the dangers it represents to ourselves and, most importantly, to our children.

~ Dalton McGuinty

Results from the Agricultural Health Study, an ongoing study of pesticide exposures in farm families, show that farmers who used agricultural insecticides experienced an increase in headaches, fatigue, insomnia, dizziness, hand tremors, and other neurological symptoms. Evidence suggests that children

chase what local farmers are selling to the consumers. the label; otherwise, it is being used illegally..."

The Department of Agriculture (DOA) in conjunction with the American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (ASEPA) has been working hand in hand to control the use of pesticides by the local farmers' community. American Samoa also has a process in place in inspecting roadside markets and local farmers concerning pesticide use. Farmers are required to enroll in a pesticide certification course prior to being allowed to purchase chemicals. This course is conducted by ASEPA and Land Grant staff. Once they are certified, they will be issued a card which allows them to purchase chemicals. However, they are still allowed to purchase over-the-counter pesticides from local stores on island (i.e. ACE) without a card.

CAUTION PESTICIDES

are particularly susceptible to adverse effects from exposure to pesticides, including neurodevelopmental effects. People may also be exposed to pesticides used in a variety of settings including homes, schools, hospitals, and workplaces (National Institution of Health, 2000).

Concerns from the public have developed about the high rise of produce seen at the local roadside markets making it hard to avoid questions regarding pesticide use and how safe it is to pur-

approved number on it or else it will be confiscated by customs and quarantine officials and reported to EPA. Moreover, only pesticides that are legal in U.S. can enter the Territory and they all must be EPA approved.

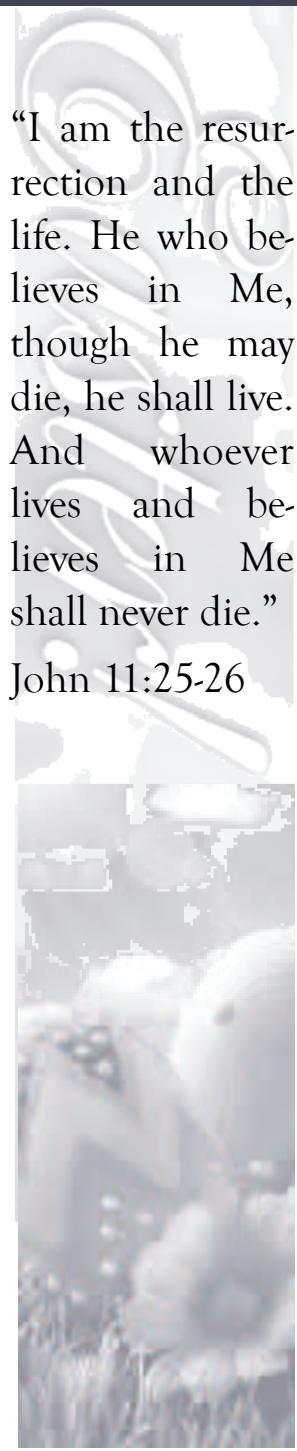
In addition, the dose of pesticides farmers use was also questioned, and accord-

ing to DOA—the legal dose of pesticides depends on the type of chemical used on what specific crop they are applying it on. "A farmer must use the recommended amount that is indicated on

From ASG
Weekly to you
and your
families—Happy
Easter

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die."

John 11:25-26



For more details about pesticide control and process please contact the Department of Agriculture at 699-1497 or the American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency at 633-2304.

CONTEST



VOICE *of the* PEOPLE

It has been 2 months since the new administration have been in office and with the change in leadership—the people have witnessed rapid restructuring of government policies and procedures and so ASG Weekly asked a few LBJ employees on their take of the new changes the new administration have implemented thus far:

“What change in government made by the new administration that you like and why?”

Send us a photo of your best American Samoa scenery at weekly@as.gov.

Please include the name of the photographer and the location of the scenery.

The winning photograph and photographer will be featured on our upcoming issue.

Help us showcase the beauty of our island.



Name: Meleane Savusa

Village: Nuuuli

“I like the changes in the Vital Statistics Office. The change of issuing dates. Instead of Monday and Wednesday for birth certificates it's now an everyday service...I also like that the cars and cellphones are no longer being abused, so it can save us some money...”



Name: Erica Vaouli-Aoatua

Village: Pavaiai

“... I like how the governor fought to keep Bank of Hawaii from leaving for another year and that they are trying to put forth the effort in fixing the roads for our traveling public. I also like what I hear about the Governor giving some of his time and the time of his employees for community service projects... that will foster great respect and support from both the community members and visitors from abroad...”



Name: Sophia A'asa

Village: Iliili

“... I like how the Governor went to the people at Hawaiian Airlines and asked to see if there is a way for them to drop the prices for tickets to and from American Samoa... I like how there is better accountability of the employees and they are held accountable for their actions whether good or bad... I also like how ASPA is starting to drop their costs for all of the public and have made it more affordable for us that don't make that much money...”

REMINDER

For even more information about current happenings in the American Samoa Government subscribe to ASG Weekly's online version.

Online version offers government job postings, executive orders, and announcements.

QUEST Course Offers ASCC Students Learning and Professional Development

By: Ephraim Temple, ASCC Marine Science

During their recent spring break, students at the American Samoa Community College (ASCC) interested in underwater biological surveying had a rare opportunity to develop these skills through the field course Quantitative Underwater Ecological Survey Techniques (QUEST), offered by the University of Hawaii Sea Grant College Program in collaboration with the College's Marine Science Program and Community and Natural Resources Division. While ASCC students received two credits for the course, QUEST was also made available to anyone in the community at least 18 years of age.

During this year's QUEST course, which took place from March 11th to the 16th, participating students and staff camped at Faga'alu Park in the old Boy Scouts facility and immersed themselves in learning various methods for counting and measuring fish, algae, and invertebrate species such as corals. Data collected using these methods allow different questions to be answered, ranging from general queries such as "How healthy are our reefs?" to the more specific, "How big is the average parrot fish?" Students conducted small research projects in teams to learn and apply the scientific method and present their findings at a symposium on the last day of QUEST. In the course of the projects they gained familiarity with experimental design, sampling methods, statistical analysis, and forming conclusions.

The class of six was comprised of three ASCC students and one student each from the National Park of American Samoa, Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Pacific Islands Regional Office. For some of them, this was their first experience with identifying underwater organisms, while others struggled at first with the required swimming skills. However, by the end of the week, the students were all able to dive down to 15 feet to take pictures, identify corals, and measure the shape of the coral reef. Student John Leau, said, "After six days at QUEST, I've learned all 200 species of coral and I can identify any of them when I see them underwater. Not only that, but I also know how to conduct monitoring surveys for fish, corals, and algae, and how to collect and analyze data to interpret what it means."

Assistants Valentine Vaeoso and Rocco Tinali both previously completed QUEST in 2012 and later completed undergraduate research projects in Hawaii through the Undergraduate Research and Mentoring Program. Valentine assisted this year as a guest lecturer on coral diseases and anomalies, while Rocco was on site to assist participants with following safety procedures while in the water. Other QUEST graduates from previous years have used their QUEST experience as a launch pad to other opportunities such as SCUBA diving training, paid internships, and research and monitoring in Faga'alu Bay with the NOAA Coral Reef Ecosystem Division. The National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa has shown great interest in QUEST graduates through paid internships and scholarships for further undergraduate studies in Marine Science. The QUEST program has enabled students to expand their professional networks and improve their chances of securing employment on island in areas involving Marine Science.

Ephraim Temple and Kelley Anderson Tagarino, organizers of the QUEST course, acknowledged their partners who made this year's QUEST possible. They expressed their gratitude to Jeff Kuwabara of the University of Hawaii Marine Option Program, Tim Clark of the National Park of American Samoa, Wendy Cover of the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa, Afa Uikirifi and Alice Lawrence of the Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources, and Trevor Kaitu'u and Whitney Peterson of the Coral Reef Advisory Group housed in the Department of Commerce.

Additional sponsors of QUEST contributed valuable services, and Temple and Tagarino thank Friendly Car Rental, the Pago Pago International Airport Manager and Airport Security, and the Department of Parks and Recreation for their generous support. The next QUEST course is expected to be held during spring break of 2014. Anyone interested in participating in this course should contact Ephraim Temple at 731-8169, ephraim@hawaii.edu.



Students from ASCC and the community spent six days developing their underwater biological surveying skills through the QUEST program offered during spring break. Instructors were Ephraim Temple (far right) and Kelly Anderson-Tagarino (second left). (Courtesy Photo)

Fa'asilasila ga Vocational Rehabilitation

E maua le
fesoasoani mo e
afaina tino ma le
mafaufau.

Matati'a: "Ia fa'amautuina
le aia tatau o tagata uma ua
tetele le afaina o latou tino
po'o mafaufau ina ia maua
le sa'olotoga o le soifua
tuto'atasi."

O ai ua agava'a? O 'i latou
uma ua iai le tetele o le
afaina o le tino, ma 'oni
mafatiaga ua tumau, ona o
le malosi e ola to'atasi, ua
alia'i mai ai le mana'omia o
se tautua a le ofisa, ma ua iai
le masalomia le alualu i
luma o ɔ latou manuia i nei
tautua, ua agava'a mo lenei
polokalamala.

Mo se fa'apupulaga atili,
vala'au i le telefoni 699-4234.

SHARE IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES

with our ASG workforce
as well as the citizens of
American Samoa.

Email your articles, an-
nouncements, pictures or
other information at
weekly@as.gov

IA MAUA LE LAISENE PISINISI I SE TAIMI PU'UPU'U

O le saunoaga a le Kovana Sili Lolo, o le lua vaiaso e fa'atali ai le laisene pisinisi, ua umi tele. O lo'o taumafai nei le Susuga a Keniseli Lafaele le fa'atonu o le Ofisa o Ala-manua, e sa'ilia se tasi auala e maua vave ai laisene.

O le faafouina o laisene pisinisi e tumau pea lona i nofoaga tuai, e le afaina se'ia vagana ua suia le itua'iga pisinisi. UA LE O TOE MAMAO!

Feel like you've been discriminated against in your work place?

If so, please visit the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) office for assistance. We are located on the 2nd Floor of the Executive Office Building (EOB) within the Department of Human Resources office.

Title VII of Civil Rights Act prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex (including sexual harassment & pregnancy), national origin, religion and retaliation.

There are five (5) laws enforced by the EEOC:

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act

Age Discrimination Act

Equal Pay Act

The Genetic Information Act

For questions or inquiries, please contact us at 633-4485:

EEO Officer

EEO Administrative Asst.

Kereti Matautia

Monalisa Matautia Nanai

Ext: 269

Ext: 230

EEO Compliance Officer

Candie Mutini

Ext: 229



DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN & SOCIAL SERVICES **WIC PROGRAM**

PH. 633-2610 FAX 633-2618

WIC builds healthy future!



What is WIC?

WIC stands for Women, Infants and Children and is the short form for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for women, infants and children.

WIC is a federally funded program providing qualified residents with nutrition education, breastfeeding support and referrals for health care.

Who is eligible?

WIC serves pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women, and infants and children under age five, who meet eligible guidelines.

How do you qualify?

Meet income guidelines and be at nutritional risk.

For more information on how to apply for WIC, call 633-2610 or visit us on our website www.aswie.com

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